

Okotoks

THE
ELDORADO
OF
SOUTH ALBERTA

PREPARED BY
THE COMMISSIONER OF
THE BOARD OF TRADE
OKOTOKS, ALBERTA



Form 971.239
0410

OKOTOKS

THE ELDORADO
===== of =====
SOUTH ALBERTA

MURRAY & WALTERS,
REAL ESTATE
INSURANCE
OKOTOKS, ALTA.



HAMMOND LITHOGRAPHING COMPANY, LIMITED
CALGARY, ALBERTA

63.2.6/1

8477

The Town of Okotoks



IN a pleasant and sheltered part of the beautiful Okotoks Valley, in the most fertile part of Alberta judging from the Government Crop Reports, is found the busy, thriving town of Okotoks. The name is of Indian origin, meaning "Stony Crossing," from the fact that the river was forded at a point just south of the town before the present bridge was built.

Okotoks is about sixteen years old, and until the past five or six years did not show any unusual activity. The main industry which it relied upon in the early days was a saw mill, where the logs which were brought down from the mountain streams every spring were converted into lumber. This mill is still doing a large business and supplies a large area of the district with building material.

In speaking of Okotoks one can hardly mention the name without associating it with the well-known name of John Lineham, the father of Okotoks. This gentleman has been a resident of the town ever since its inception, and has been one of the greatest builders of the town's position and prosperity that it has known.

Mr. Lineham has always been engaged in the saw mill and lumber industry at both Okotoks and High River, but is away from home most of the time owing to the necessity of giving most of his attention to the immense proposition in the work of the Rocky Mountain Development Co., of which organization Mr. Lineham is President. He still owns large real estate investments at Okotoks.

With the advance of immigration, however, the brave little town took new life, and without any booming has steadily but surely forged ahead to its present position, which warrants it in being confident of becoming one of the leading towns of Sunny Alberta.



G. PATTERSON'S HOUSE



RESIDENCE OF J. M. STEIN & J. H. STON



RESIDENCE OF J. M. STEIN & J. H. STON

At the time of writing, Okotoks offers good wages to laborers and tradesmen of almost any kind, laborers getting from \$2.00 to \$3.50 per day, and skilled workmen \$3.50 to \$5.00. No need to be idle here. At least 300 men are needed now for quarry work, brickyards, building, lumbering, farming, railroads, construction, etc.

Okotoks is situated on the north bank of Sheep River, on the Southern Division of the Calgary and Edmonton Railway, twenty-six miles south of Calgary. It enjoys the service of four passenger trains a day, as well as a large number of freight trains.

Okotoks is incorporated and has a Mayor and Town Council, besides a live Board of Trade—a valuable asset to any growing town. It is populated by an intelligent, well educated and progressive class of people.

Up to date the town and district have never been boomed, consequently both town and country property are comparatively cheap and offer excellent opportunities to the far-seeing investor who knows what results are reasonably to be looked for from a little conservative advertising of the many resources of such a district.

Okotoks has five clergymen, superintendents of five beautiful and well-built churches, three physicians, a private hospital, two lawyers, a dentist, a druggist, veterinary surgeon, mining engineer, architect, a large brick school of four departments, three hotels whose accommodation will outclass that found in most towns of its size, and compare favorably with that of our cities. The rates are \$1.00 to \$2.00 per day or \$5.00 per week.

Okotoks is brilliantly lighted by the Okotoks Electric Light Co., and also has a first class local and long distance telephone connection, and C.P.R. telegraph service.

On account of the favorable position of the town naturally, waterworks would be an easy acquisition, and will likely receive the attention of the town very soon. At present plenty of the purest of drinking water can be had from wells of ten to twenty feet deep.

Fraternal Societies are here well represented by the Masons, Knights of Pythias, Oddfellows, Orangemen, Independent Order of Foresters, and Canadian Order of Foresters.

The following business men are located at Okotoks:—
Paterson & Sons—Large General Store.

Todd & Fisher—Large General Store.

H. P. McLeod—Large General Store.

A. Z. Hicks—Groceries, Crockery, Boots and Shoes.

Okotoks

Board
Trade



JNO. LINEHAM, HON. PRES.



A. ANDERSON
SEC'Y.



WM. FISHER
MAYOR



GEO. C. S. PATTERSON
PRES.



- H. N. Chester & Son—Dry Goods, Millinery, Gents' Furnishings, Boots and Shoes.
H. E. Beattie—Gents' Furnishings, Dept. 1.
H. E. Beattie—Dress Goods, Millinery and Dressmaking, Dept. 2.
W. J. Thompson—Hardware, Furnaces, Roofings, etc.
George Thompson—Hardware, Roofing, Furnaces, Tinware, etc.
G. W. Edmonds—Drugs, Stationery, Central Telephone Office.
Union Bank—Ashworth Anderson, Manager (Secretary Board of Trade).
E. Wilson—Tobacconist and News Agency, Magazines, etc.
J. L. Short—Barber.
Downey & Co.—Dry Goods.
W. Wentworth—Sash and Door Factory.
Lineham Lumber Co.—Saw and Planing Mill.
Staples & Co.—Lumber Yards.
H. Linhoff—Plasterer.
W. Dodds—Painting, Papering and Decorating.
J. Jones—Painting, Papering and Decorating.
F. Thompson—Butcher.
Otta V. Hough—Butcher.
G. W. Mahon—Implement Agent, Vehicles of all kinds, Weight Scales, Coal, Building Stone, etc.
M. C. Hardy—Farm Implements, Wagons, Buggies, Grain Elevator, Coal, etc.
C. O. Saunders—Agricultural Implements and Vehicles.
Wilson Bros.—Farm Implements, Buggies, Wagons, Cream Separators, Undertakers.
C. V. Cameron—Agricultural Implements and Vehicles.
J. W. Taylor—Furniture.
J. Statham—Merchant Tailor.
F. T. George—Grist Mill.
S. R. Hodson—"The Okotoks Review," Job Printing.
T. T. McKee—Watchmaker and Jeweler.
S. P. Barth—Shoemaker, Boots and Shoes.
E. Moore—Shoemaker.
S. A. Grimmond—Bakeovens, Choice Pastry and Cakes, Confectionery.
R. J. Bridgett—Harnessmaker, Harness and Saddlery.
N. McNeill—Blacksmith and Horseshoer.
W. Kadey—Blacksmith and Horseshoer.
J. J. Orton—Blacksmith and Horseshoer.
D. Holt—Pump Maker, Plumbing, etc.
H. J. Proctor—Royal Hotel. Livery in connection.
E. Sherwood—Alberta Hotel, J. Morrison. Livery in connection.

Beaupre & Spencer—Grand Central Hotel, A. Patterson.
Livery in connection.

Alberta Pacific Elevator Co.

W. J. Rowley—Coal Sheds.

Metcalf Bros.—Contractors.

H. S. Edwards—Contractor.

A. & C. Serviss—Brick Manufacturers and Contractors.

M. Downs—Stone Mason.

Pugh & Livingstone—Lumber, Horses, Cattle.

E. M. Allworth—Electrical Engineer for Okotoks Electric
Light-Co.

Kedder & Stiers—Carpenters and Contractors.

McDougall Bros.—Draying, Team Work.

J. D. McDougall—Draying, Team Work.

H. Watson—Confectionery, Choice Fresh Fruits, Restaurant.

Mar Bing—Restaurant and Laundry.

W. E. McLeod—Real Estate and Insurance, Auctioneer.

Flemming & McConkey—Real Estate and Insurance.

G. C. Chester & Co.—Real Estate and Insurance.

Tompkins & Buck—Real Estate.

W. S. Newman—Okotoks Dairy.

J. K. Rowles—Pure Bred Horses.

Geo. Hoadley—Pure Bred Horses.

W. N. Tompkins—Dealer in Horses and Cattle.

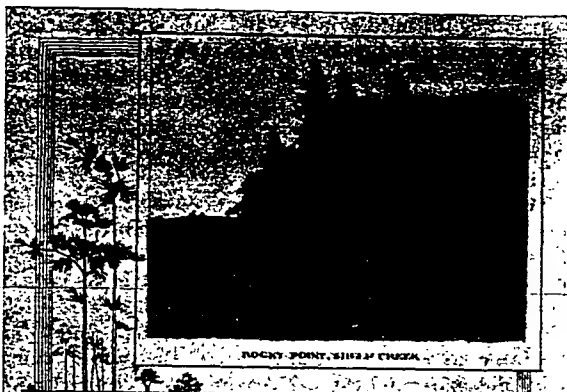
A large number of these men occupy brick buildings, which testify to the substantial character of the town.



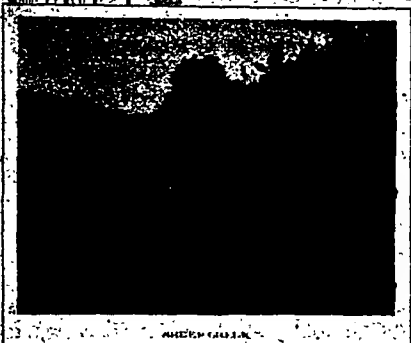
Climate and Scenery.

What is the climate of Southern Alberta like? This is the question which the intending settler is sure to ask, and his anxiety on this point is natural. First, because he desires to satisfy himself that the climate is one in which he and his family can live in health and comfort, and, second, because the climate must have much to do with the success or failure of his agricultural operations.

To answer this question, the statement can be made that Southern Alberta is favored with one of the most healthy and comfortable climates to live in on the Continent. Its elevation, varying from 1,400 to 3,400 feet above sea level, combined with its clear, dry atmosphere, its almost continual sunshine, the total absence of malaria



ROCKY POINT, SINGAPORE



WILDERNESS



MOTORING IN THE PARK

of any kind, its mild winters and cool nights during the summer, all tend to produce a pleasant and healthy climate. The portion of the province referred to has attained a Continental reputation as a sanatorium for pulmonary or bronchial troubles, and many persons can be referred to who moved to Alberta in weak health, who are now strong and vigorous.

The winter in Southern Alberta is a season of bright sunny days, broken by short intervals of cold weather, and long spells when the Western Chinook Winds bring almost summer temperature. The snowfall is so light that as a rule wagons are used throughout the year, and the snow usually disappears entirely two or three times during the winter under the influence of the warm chinook. During February and the early part of March brief periods of cold weather are usually experienced, but from one month to six weeks of winter is as a rule the limit.

Stock, consisting of horses, cattle and sheep, graze at large throughout the whole winter, and the fact that the beef which has attained such a high reputation as "Alberta Beef" has been and is killed direct from the range in winter, is a proof of the mildness of the winter climate.

The summer season is characterized by hot days of almost continual sunshine, with cool nights and a never failing breeze, and the warm golden days of autumn, often lasting well into December, are the glory of the year. The marked characteristic of the climate of Southern Alberta is the "Chinook" wind, which is a warm, dry wind blowing across the plains from the Rocky Mountains, which bound the province on the west. This wind has a wonderful power of melting and drying up the snow in winter seasons with amazing celerity, and to its influence may be ascribed the fact that Southern Alberta has many times celebrated mid-winter holidays with cricket, baseball, and other outdoor sports. And the winter here is one of the most enjoyable seasons of the year.

"Okotoks."

"To the Mayor and Corporation of the Town of Okotoks."

"I have much pleasure in presenting the following Report of Infectious and Contagious Diseases occurring within the Municipality of Okotoks during the year ending Dec. 31st, '06: Diphtheria, one case (not contracted within limits); typhoid, two cases.

"Yours respectfully,

"HENRY W. WELCH, JR., M.H.O."

Scenery.

Okotoks lies in the valley of a beautiful mountain stream, the north bank of which is a grassy slope rising to the height of from seventy to one hundred feet. Looking up this valley, one sees, at a distance of fifty miles, the snow-capped peaks of the Rockies towering in their colossal grandeur and sparkling in the morning sun, a beautiful and majestic scene, while to the south and east rolls the undulating prairie, dotted with beautiful groves snugly sheltering cosy farm houses and stockyards, while over the field roam Canada's choicest in horses and cattle; or waving fields of winter wheat, oats or barley greet the eye.

The town itself boasts of its pretty wooded walks along the pure mountain stream, cosy cottages surrounded with tastefully arranged gardens, fringed with shrubbery, all testifying to the thrift of its people, and to the aesthetic taste and decorative art that invariably attends commercial prosperity.

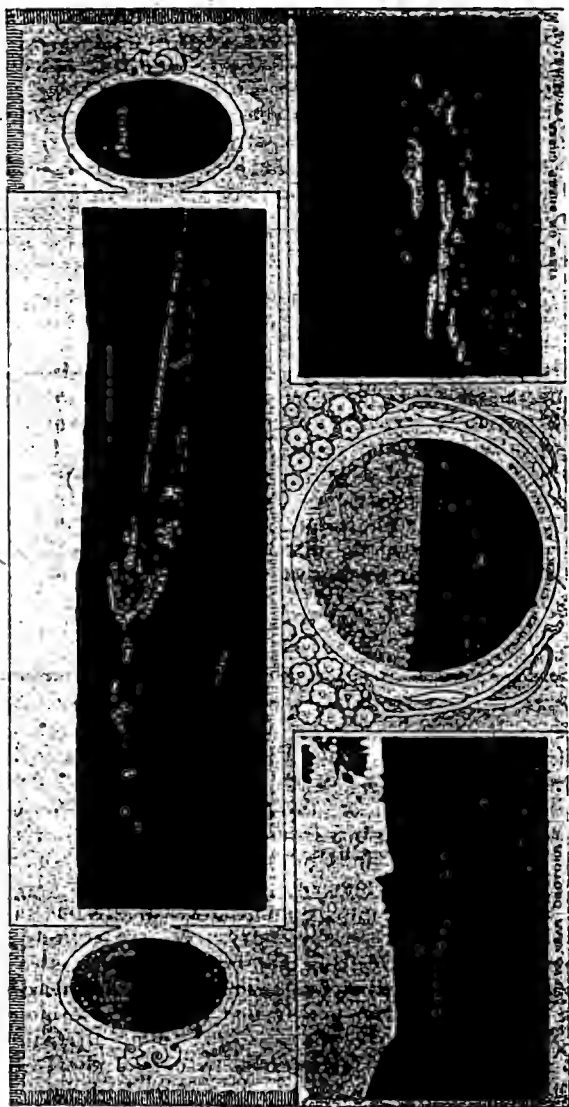
To the lover of Nature this is indeed an ideal spot, where he can sit in the midst of plenty, and view in the distance Nature's handiwork in a panorama of scenic splendor.



The People.

The inhabitants of this district are, in the main, English speaking, drawn from the British Isles, our Eastern Provinces, and the Central States of the Union, with a very small percentage of Germans.

All are thrifty, intelligent people, and are one in the building up of this great country. We are entirely free from the foreign element, that herd in communities and adhere to the language and customs of their forefathers. We have no room for people that have not the interests of Alberta at heart, who are not willing to maintain Canadian Laws and Institutions, to uphold the Government of the people by the people, and to be loyal to the Crown under which Canada has prospered in the past, and under whose fostering care Alberta hopes to be the banner province in this fair Dominion.



Our people here believe that to the country in which they live and prosper belongs their allegiance, and to all such they extend a hearty welcome, assuring them that there awaits them here homes where happiness and prosperity will crown their efforts.



Agriculture.

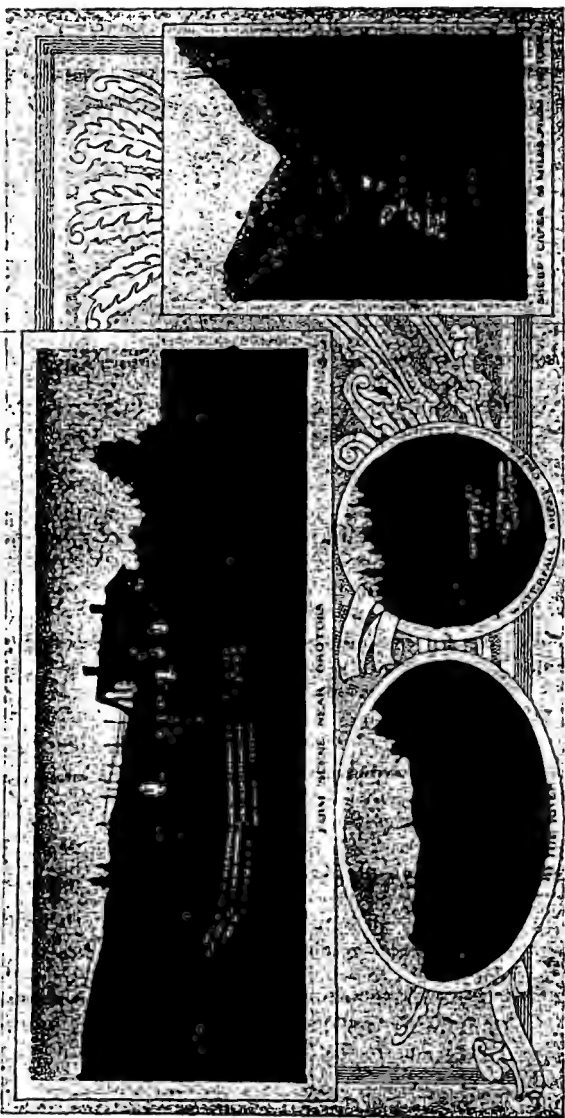
As it is mainly the Agricultural class that are turning their eyes to the Great West, we submit a few facts as to the Agricultural possibilities of Okotoks District.

For many years Alberta was looked upon as simply a ranching country, and indeed this idea has been fostered and communicated to the outside world largely by those who had large cattle interests in the country, and who were jealous of immigrants for fear of being crowded out, but that idea has happily been dispelled, and the owners of large herds are now obliged to hold them within bounds, as the country is being rapidly filled up with settlers who are tilling the soil.

The area of farming land which may be included in the Okotoks District embraces, roughly speaking, about 340 square miles, and of this amount about 75 per cent. is classed "No. 1" in the reports of the government surveyors, and these reports are accepted everywhere as being an authority. There are no swamp lands in the whole district, such as are often met with in the prairie country.

The soil is the accumulation of ages of the rich vegetable matter annually washed down the eastern slopes of the Rockies by the myriads of mountain streams, and is a deep, black loam, resting on a clay subsoil. There is no better soil in the world, and, as is the case in Manitoba, will yield crops better and better for years without the use of fertilizers.

There are no forests to hew down before the settler can begin operation on the land. Nature has cleared those broad fields, clothed them with verdure and left them ready for the plow.



This natural sod when turned under forms a bed for the seed. In many cases breaking is done in the spring and a crop grown the first season, but better results are had when the breaking is done in the summer and the ground thoroughly tilled and made ready for crop the following spring, when it can be sown as early as February or March usually.

The chief products of the soil in this district are winter wheat, barley, oats, potatoes and roots.

Our Red Winter Wheat industry is now beyond the experimental stage, and is recognized as our staple crop. Whole sections of this valuable cereal are in crop this year (1907), and the prospects for a bumper crop are excellent. This wheat is in greater demand than spring wheat, yields a larger crop and a better grade of flour, and is largely sought after by millers from the East.

Forty bushels to the acre is an average yield, and as high as fifty-five bushels to the acre has been threshed in the immediate vicinity of Okotoks.

Barley growing is another important industry, the yield in 1906 averaged fifty bushels per acre, and found ready market in Okotoks at 46 cents a bushel.

This barley is consumed in large quantities in Calgary, where large breweries are in full operation. The inferior grades are used in feeding hogs and cattle.

Hogs at the time of writing are bringing 11 cents a pound by the carcass, dressed.

There is also large profits from the feeding of poultry; turkeys find a ready sale at 25 cents a lb., and chickens at 15 cents a lb., while eggs are never lower than 15 cents a dozen, and in winter as high as 60 cents a dozen is paid.

Oats is another of our staple cereals, yields of 100 bushels per acre being quite common. The market for oats is found in the lumbering districts of Western Alberta and British Columbia, and the oatmeal mills of the West. Prices range from 20 cents a bushel to 60 cents a bushel, but with the opening of Oriental markets better prices are assured.

While it is quite true that horses require no winter feeding, and for the greater part of the winter cattle feed and thrive on the range, yet it is always advisable to be prepared for emergencies by putting up hay in sufficient quantities, and should it not be needed there is always a ready sale in the towns for any surplus, and as the Government lands are being taken up, the farmer has to depend on his own enclosures for his supply of fodder. With

this in view many experiments have been made as to the value of the grasses. As a result it is found that Timothy hay is an assured success, and stands our climate, yielding large crops.

Red and Alsike Clover are also grown with marked success. Alfalfa does exceedingly well, as does Bromus Grass, so that we have these five grasses with which to supply the farmers' demand for winter fodder.

To those who may be looking to Western Canada as a field for Agriculture, we submit these facts, and would ask them, when looking over the West, to visit this highly favored part of our great heritage.

A Few Facts About Okotoks District.

Oats grown upon land bordering on the Town of Okotoks took first prize at the World's Exposition, Paris. The oats weighed 54 lbs. to the bushel.

Horses from the Okotoks District took two-thirds of the prizes given at the Calgary Stallion Show last spring.

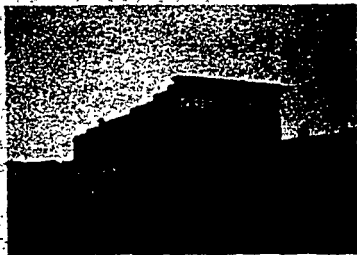
A crop of fall wheat grown upon 40 acres of land within five miles of Okotoks two years ago was sold in Okotoks for \$1,600.00.

Okotoks has for several years led all other communities west of Brandon in live stock show.

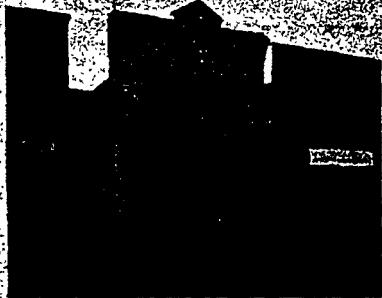
Okotoks is the centre of one of the most fertile stretches in the West. Nowhere is the rich, black loam more productive, and nowhere is the climate more temperate in the winter months. As to the yields of its crops, one incident may be related. In the year 1902 a new comer to this country purchased a quarter-section of land. He left it idle the next season, but for the crops of 1904 he had forty acres broken up and ready for crop. With that year's harvest he secured enough money to pay the whole purchase price for the entire 160 acres. Of course the land was cheaper then than it is to-day, but nevertheless the showing is an extraordinary one. And the man is still in the Okotoks District ready to vouch for the correctness of his story, and has backed up his faith in the future of the district by other and more extensive purchases of farm lands.



OKOTO'S MEAT MARKET



PATERSON'S DRY GOODS STORE



AUGER'S HARDWARE



Average Yield per Acre, 1906.

Spring Wheat	22.75 bushels
Winter Wheat	23.34 "
Oats	40.82 "
Barley	29.04 "
Flax	10.14 "
Rye	22.61 "
Speltz	27.91 "

The following table gives the average yields by districts:—

Dis. No.	DISTRICT	Spring Wheat	Winter Wheat	Oats	Barley	Flax	Rye	Speltz
1	Cardston	Bus. 23.6	Bus. 23.7	Bus. 46.9	Bus. 30.3	Bus.	Bus. 18.8	Bus.
2	Claresholm, Macleod, Pincher Creek and Staveland	22.3	23.3	39.2	25.8	11.1	15.5	27.1
3	Lethbridge, Raymond and Stirling	19.6	17.0	35.5	28.0	10.1	23.1	23.8
4	De Winton, High River, Nanton and Okotoks	24.1	23.4	49.4	31.6	12.5	20.5	35.3
5	Cochrane, Calgary, Cross- field and Gleichen	27.8	26.1	48.3	28.2	12.1	22.0	.....
6	Medicine Hat	18.6	17.3	29.9	24.3	.....	17.0	28.6
7	Carstairs, Didsbury and Ojibwa	19.9	30.2	42.8	29.9	10.7	25.6	31.5
8	Bowden and Innisfail	24.1	27.9	38.5	29.7	.....	27.8	.....
9	Red Deer and Blackfalds	22.8	27.4	39.7	26.2	19.1	23.2	.....
10	Lacombe	20.0	26.0	35.9	25.6	.....	21.1	28.10
11	Ponoka	23.3	26.5	36.7	26.2	.....	24.7	21.4
12	Wetaskiwin	21.9	20.0	35.1	25.6	12.1	24.9	30.4
13	Lloydminster, Vermilion, and Vegreville	24.0	.....	41.7	29.6	10.4	17.9	31.5
14	Fort Saskatchewan, Leduc and Strathcona	24.5	30.0	40.9	31.7	.....	24.9	.....
15	St. Albert and Sarny Plain	24.3	.....	40.1	30.0	.....	21.2	.....
16	Bon Accord, Whitford and Victoria	24.5	.....	40.3	31.5	.....	21.1	.....

GEO. HARCOURT,

Deputy Minister.

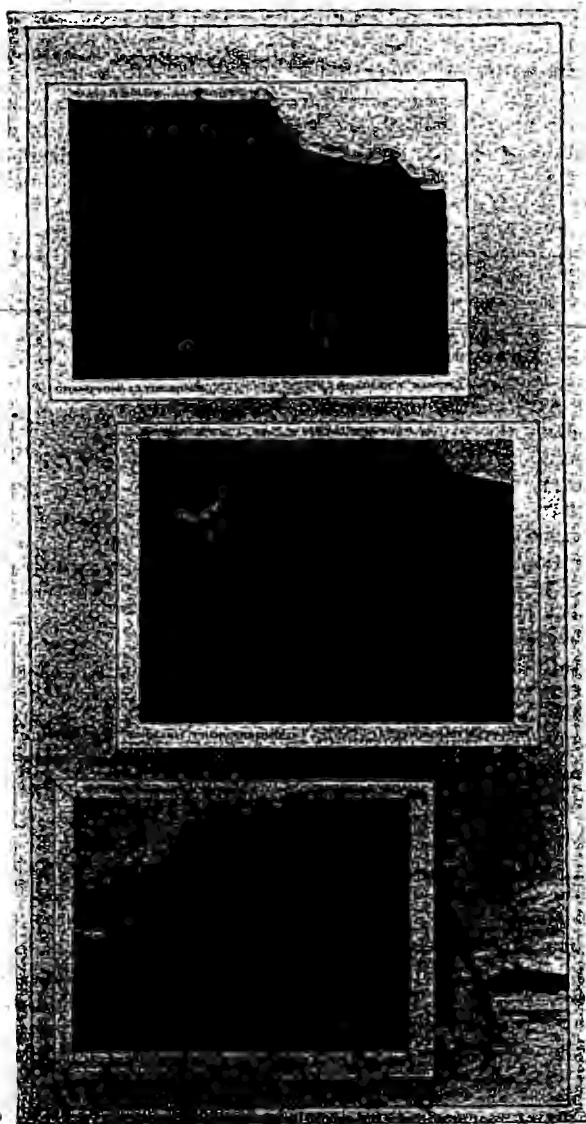
Department of Agriculture, Edmonton, Alta.,
20th March, 1907.

It will be seen that Okotoks District stands above the average in all except Rye.



Horses.

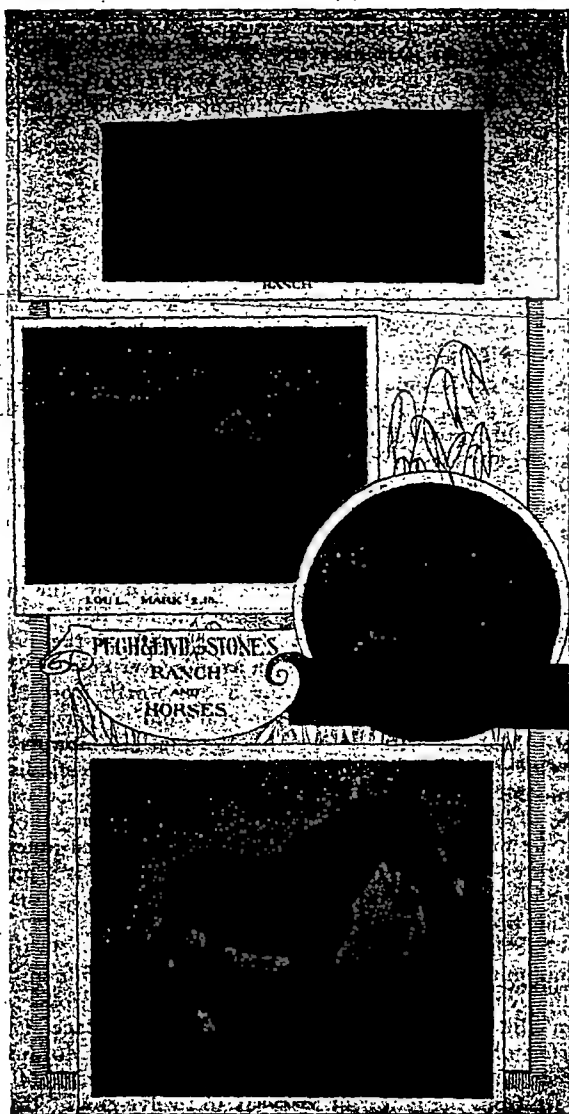
If there is any one thing for which the District of Okotoks can justly and proudly claim the palm from the



whole of Western Canada, it is for her horses—not one kind, but for all kinds. We have here Studs of Standard Breds with the finest blood America can produce the Thoroughbred, represented by the best blood in the world, and from year to year we are adding to the wealth of our draught stock by new importations of Clyde and Shire horses. The quality is the matter considered by the horseman of this district, the price is the last consideration, as the position we hold to-day is beyond dispute, and we mean, by the use of the best sires only, to still keep at the head of the Western Horse Industry.

The Okotoks Agricultural Society have had upwards of three hundred exhibits for the last four years, and to quote from the Government Judges sent from Ontario: "We have seen no such exhibition of horses, either in regard to quality or numbers, since we left Brandon, and we don't think you can be beaten west of Ontario, except in numbers, in the classes of Registered Clydes, and one thing we consider quite exceptional in your horses, that is their soundness—not having had an unsound horse brought before us to-day." Now this is quoting horse experts, selected by our Dominion Government, and sent at great expense to the country, consequently we have a perfect right to claim the position we do. Then, again, we have some of the grandest blood in the Hackney Stud Book for our use here, and we have in the past taken prizes from the Coast to Winnipeg with horses bred here, and we are still pursuing the same system of breeding, in our determined efforts to put nothing but the best (of whatsoever breed each man may be interested in) on to the market.

Now in regard to what markets we have for our horses, we have no difficulty about that, with the class of horses we raise here. The only difficulty is to get the quantity to supply the buyers. This district has such a well-known reputation through the Western part of Canada for good horses of all kinds, that the only difficulty we have (and it is a real one) is to supply the men who come to buy from all parts. Vancouver and Victoria in the extreme west, who take our best heavy horses for dray purposes, the best light ones for driving—quality is what they ask for, never mind the price. Then the lumber camps through British Columbia require our big, strong, hardy work horses; lastly, our district is swept clear of the smaller type of work horse by the farmers of the north country; the high class saddle horse is in demand.



by the Army Authorities at Winnipeg, Toronto and Great Britain, so that it is easy to see that the buyers are not any difficulty. The shortage in the supply is all that keeps the horsemen here from developing into those national dangers—"Millionaires."



Cattle and Dairying.

Next to agriculture, and inseparably connected with it, is the cattle industry. Alberta has a world-wide reputation as a grazing country. For many years it has been the pasture ground of thousands of beef cattle, and as it was largely export beef that was raised, the best breeds have been introduced, so that to-day we have the choicest herds of Shorthorns, Herefords and Galloways to be found on the Continent. In past years and even yet on the large ranges calves are allowed to run with their dams till weaning time, and no value is placed on the milk except to rear a calf worth \$20.00 in the fall; but the modern progressive farmer, with the aid of the cream separator, sells in six months an average per cow of \$30.00 worth of butter, besides rearing a calf worth from \$15.00 to \$20.00, which at three or four years old is just as good as if it had run with its dam for the first six months.

Government controlled creameries are established along the main line of the C.P.R., and draw from districts 30 or 40 miles north and south. The patrons from Okotoks District of the Calgary Creamery last year netted nineteen and three-quarter cents for their butter. There is a movement on foot to establish a creamery at Okotoks, thus reducing the expense of shipping.

The Dairy Industry is only in its infancy. There is an unlimited market for dairy produce in the mining and lumber camps to the west of us, while the by-products in skim milk and butter milk find a profitable place in the rearing of calves and hogs. We can point to dozens of farmers in this district who meet all the household expenses from the butter of from six to twelve cows. Butter at the time of writing is worth in Okotoks 35 cents a lb., and this is no exception to the rule in the spring of the year.

We advise every settler to aim at keeping as many cows as he can handle for dairying, besides a nice bunch of grain-fed beef, which is worth in May from 4½ cents to 6 cents on foot.

Mixed farming is what our district is especially adapted for. We do not advocate specialities in any line of farming, as it is only the few who succeed in that way, but with a variety of grain, hay, cattle, horses, hogs, poultry, etc., he is sure of a comfortable living, and a neat bank account at the end of each year.



Crops and Markets.

"What crops can be raised in this immense district," and "What are the markets for such crops?" are questions the answering of which must have an important bearing upon the future success of the farmer's undertakings.

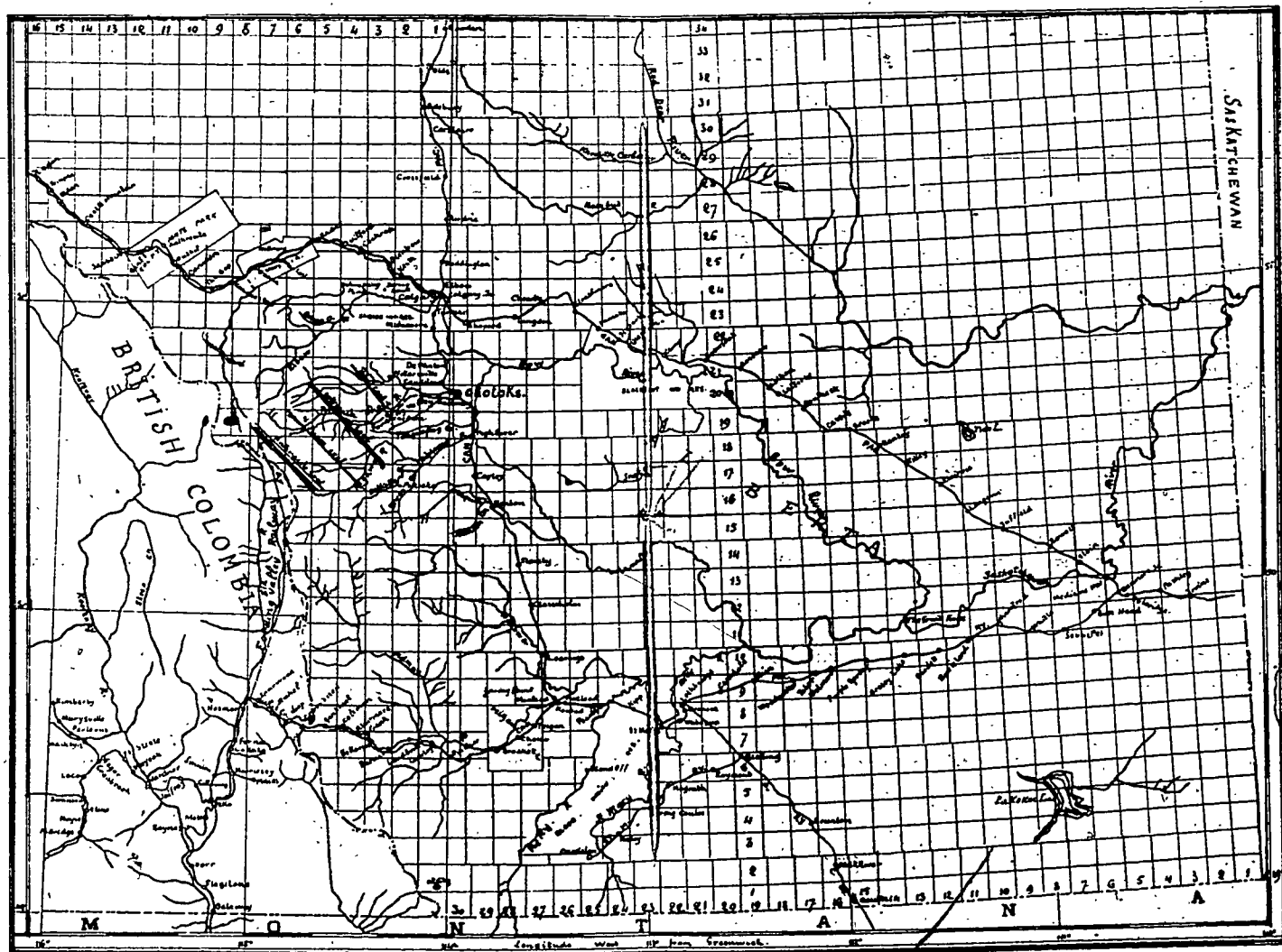
Fortunately these questions can be answered satisfactorily from results attained from actual experience.

First is the never-failing crop of magnificent stock, consisting of horses, cattle, sheep and hogs, that Southern Alberta produces in a manner that cannot be excelled on this Continent. Stock of all kinds graze at large throughout the entire year, and the mild winters, cool nights of the summer, absence of flies or pests of any kind, with the pure water of mountain-fed streams, combine to make the ideal stock or dairying country.

Then the agriculturist comes to the front and produces crops, wheat (spring and winter varieties), oats, barley, rye, flax, and, of fodder crops, timothy, alfalfa and bromus, and of vegetables, all the standard varieties, including sugar beets, which are an unusually good crop both in purity and quality. Small fruits also do well, and in time the hardier varieties of apples will be produced.

These statements are not the guess of any person as to what can be done in stock raising or crop production, but are based upon many years' actual results, and may be relied upon.

Southern Alberta is singularly favored in the matter of markets for its produce, situated as it is alongside the great mining and lumbering districts of her sister province of British Columbia, and having the shortest and most



direct outlet to the great markets of the Yukon, Alaska and the Orient by the port of Vancouver. A steady and never-failing market is produced for its general produce, and prime beef for many years has gone eastward across the Continent to the markets of Great Britain.



Trade and Commerce.

The Land of Golden Grain, Fat Cattle, Industrial Opportunity and Unrivalled Climate.

Throughout the British Isles, the United States, and in fact all over the world, the demand for more land is making itself manifest, and the country they all have in view is Canada. The new Province of Alberta is the Banner Province of the Dominion, and the eyes of all thinking people are turned towards it.

The exceedingly prosperous condition of affairs in Okotoks and District is largely due to our greatly increased population, supplemented by an immense immigration and the bountiful yield of our harvests, together with the good prices that have been received for them in most seasons during recent years. This situation has had its influence upon the industrial and commercial conditions. There is a demand for more manufactured articles, for more of the luxuries of life, and this demand in turn brings about a greater activity in farm products.

All manner of Farm Produce, grain, hay, stock, butter, eggs, fowl, etc., finds a ready cash market in Okotoks. And season after season finds the market prices here as high, and in many cases higher, than at competing points. This is readily explained, as the quality of Alberta Red Wheat and Alberta Oats grown in Okotoks District is not surpassed in any place. To prove this assertion we have only to point out the fact that oats grown within one mile of Okotoks took the highest award at the Paris Exposition in 1902, and Alberta Red Wheat secured the first prize at the World's Fair in St. Louis in 1904. These facts speak volumes in themselves to the fertility of the soil. Large quantities of baled hay are shipped from here each season at prices that net the farmer handsome profits.

for his labor. Butter, eggs and fowl well repay the farmer's wife for her trouble.

Already \$500,000 worth of improvements and buildings have been erected in Okotoks, which is the centre of a large tributary district. Good roads and trails radiate to the rich farming districts of Gladys, Dinton, Norma, Brant, Sandstone, Davisburg, Lineham, Moss Leigh, Tongue Creek and Millarville.

At present three grain elevators and warehouses are in operation, and these are taxed to their utmost capacity to handle the trade. The situation will be somewhat relieved by the building of one at least, perhaps two new elevators this coming summer.

A Company has been formed and plans well under way for the erection of a large flour mill. This will be pushed forward as rapidly as possible. At present our two grist mills have more trade than they can handle.

Fine substantial business blocks of brick and stone show that the business men have confidence in the future of the country.

The needs of the town and district are well supplied by large and up-to-the-minute and well equipped stores carrying large stocks.

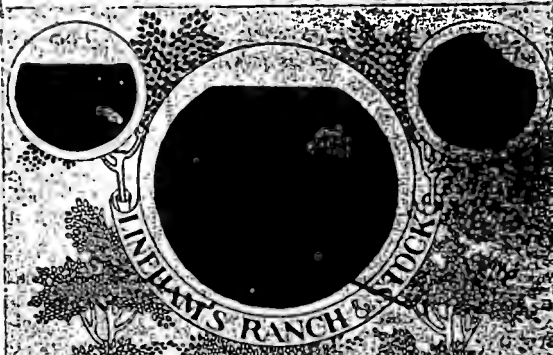
Three fine, large hotels, modern in all their appointments, look after the wants of the travelling public.

Three physicians, two dentists, two lawyers and one veterinary practise their various professions in our town.

The first Bank to open in Okotoks was the popular Union Bank of Canada, known throughout the West as "The Stockman's Bank." This Bank, the head offices of which are in Quebec City, has many branches throughout the West, and offers exceptional facilities for the collection of notes, issuance of drafts, etc. A Savings Bank business is conducted in connection with the Okotoks Branch, drafts and money orders issued, payable in any part of the world, and a general banking business transacted. Ashworth Anderson is the local manager.

Here, too, are afforded the best facilities for manufacturing enterprises. As will be seen by our natural advantages of coal, iron, etc., Okotoks is bound to become a large manufacturing city. No town in Alberta offers more promising rewards for energy, industry and the investment of capital.

After all, we are merely at the beginning of our development. The population has only begun to come. The acreage under cultivation indeed is small with what awaits



the settler's plow. The possibilities of Okotoks are beyond calculation. Providence has given us a heritage, which by our efforts and the efforts of those who will settle here in the next few years, will be turned to wonderful account.

Mineral Resources.

Extract of report made by Professor Jules Rickert, Explorer and Mining Expert:—

"Starting from the Town of Okotoks, on the Sheep River, I made the following discoveries:

1. In the Town of Okotoks, and within a radius of one mile, there are layers of Sedimentary White Sandstone, scientifically called freestone or carvingstone, for building purposes.

2. Beds of Argillaceous Shales, good for brick making.

3. A high grade of Fire Clay, suitable for fire-bricks, crucible furnaces, coke ovens, bearing a chemical composition capable of standing a temperature of 3,000 degrees Fahrenheit.

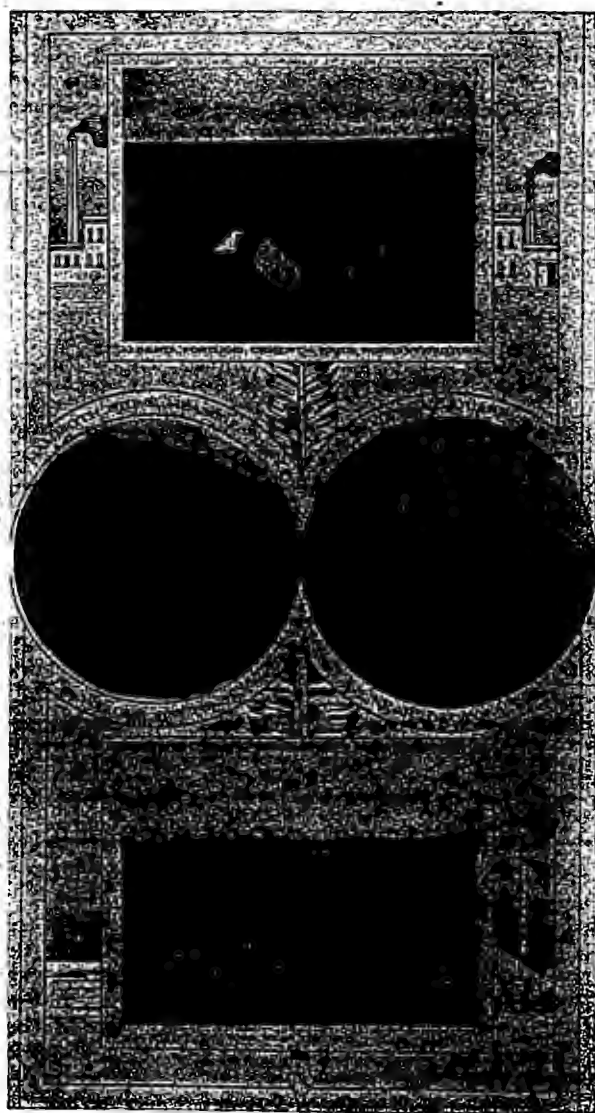
4. A bed of about two feet in thickness of Cement Rock, used in the manufacture of Portland Cement.

5. A bed, about fifteen feet in depth, of first class Pottery Clay.

6. Within the town limits a Mineral and Sulphur Spring, which would be of great utility in establishing a sanitarium.

7. A few other Mineral Springs, and quite frequently bubbles of Gas, are seen ascending from the bottoms of pools and creeks, and I would advise that a company be formed to bore gas wells, for the indications point to an inexhaustible supply of Natural Gas, imprisoned by impervious strata. The depth would be about two thousand feet.

8. Following up Sheep Creek are vast deposits of Anthracite Coal, Steaming and Coking Coal, Iron Ore, Gypsum, Roofing Slate, Soft Stones and Grits, which are under development.



9. The extent of those coal deposits is as follows:—

(a) Six veins of steaming and cooking coal, which after allowing 30 per cent. for waste and pillars, leaves a total deposit of 2,371,705,083 tons of marketable coal. This amount, if mined at the rate of 3,000 tons a day, would require 2,525 years to exhaust it.

10. Twenty-six seams of Anthracite Coal, giving a total thickness of 236 feet, and a total of marketable coal amounting to 100,231,412,736 tons, which at the rate of 10,000 tons a day would last 32,022 years.

11. The best of Limestone Rock is also found, where perpetual lime-kilns can be operated in close proximity to the coal fields.

12. I also discovered a vein of Iron Ore 100 feet in thickness, and a project is on foot to erect a smelter and utilize the near-by coal fields in this way.

13. The Gypsum, which is of fine quality for plastering and ornamental work, is in close proximity to the coal beds, and is of great commercial value.

14. Roofing Slate is abundant, and a company is under way to exploit these mines and put this valuable mineral on the market."

These mineral products have an outlet to the markets of the world, by way of the Fording Valley Railway, which has for its starting point, a point in British Columbia, and its terminus at Okotoks, Alberta, as will be seen by the following from their Charter granted by the Dominion Government:—

An Act to incorporate the Fording Valley Railway Co. Bill, passed in the Senate of Canada on June 8th, 1906.
Line of railway described:

"The Company may lay out, construct and operate a Railway of the gauge of four feet eight and one-half inches, from a point on the B.C. Southern Railway near the confluence of the Elk River and Mitchell Creek, thence along the east side of Elk River to a point north of Fording River, thence north-east to the Fording River Valley, thence following Fording River to the north of Henrietta Creek to the boundary of the Province of Alberta, thence north-easterly in the Province of Alberta to a point at or near the Town of Okotoks."

Building Materials.

The substantial character and artistic style of the present and future business blocks and residences in Okotoks and vicinity are assured by the unlimited supply of first class building material: viz., Sandstone, Brick, Cement and Lumber.

Within a radius of three miles there are five stone quarries, one of which, in the opinion of outside experts, yields the finest building stone in Alberta. This stone is being shipped to Lethbridge, 140 miles south, for the Bank of Montreal and other buildings, and to Edmonton, 200 miles north, for the Imperial Bank of that place.

There are three Brickyards within three miles of Okotoks, all of which are turning out a first class quality of red and white brick. Shale Rock is being converted into a first class grade of Portland Cement, for which there is a large and growing demand.

The extent of these industries is limited only by lack of capital and labor.

The supply of native lumber, consisting chiefly of spruce and pine, is brought largely from the extensive timber limits, which clothe the eastern slopes of the "Rockies," some 40 miles west of Okotoks.

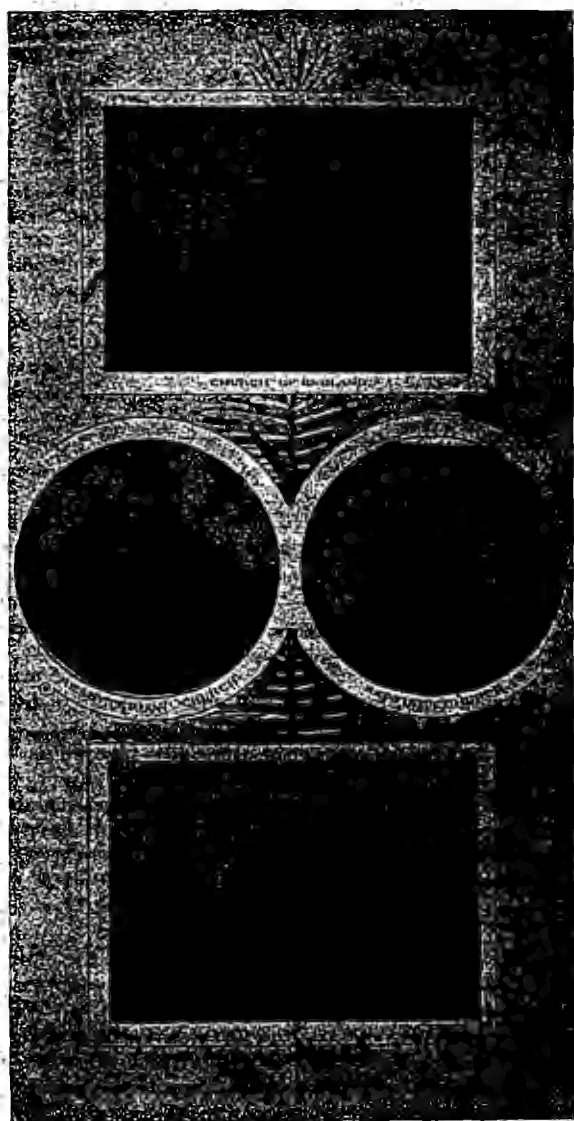
The Lineham Lumber Co. employs about 135 men in the lumber camps during the winter season, and the logs are floated down in the spring to the sawmill here, which has a capacity of about 30,000 feet daily. Here the logs are converted into rough or dressed lumber as required.

Large quantities of fence posts are brought from the same source.

Various small mills in the Foot Hills help to supply the ever increasing demand.

In addition to these, the different lumber yards import British Columbia Fir, Cedar and Pine, used largely for interior finishing.

A careful study of the above will convince the thoughtful settler that few places in the West afford the facilities for the erection of an elegant and comfortable home at so little cost as are available in or around the Town of Okotoks.



Water.

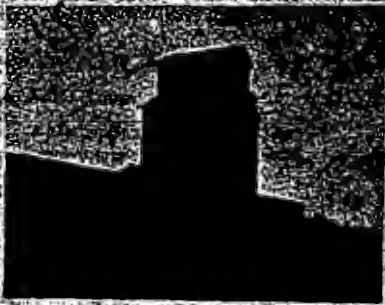
If any country was ever favored by Providence with abundance of good water, it is the district of Okotoks. The hillsides, meadows and coulees are lined with springs of pure, sparkling water, varying from a cubic inch to a cubic foot in capacity. A large percentage of the farmers and ranchers do not require to dig wells at all, as the location of a farm house generally marks the location of one of these springs, which flow summer and winter, and the presence of which has done much towards gaining for this district the enviable reputation it has for dairying and stock raising. For those who do not possess a spring, the best of water can be got at from twenty to fifty feet, as alkali water is almost unknown here.

The country also abounds in little lakes from one-half to ten acres in extent, where myriads of wild fowl make them a hunter's paradise.

The rivers themselves are more like immense springs, being the aggregation of innumerable little mountain and prairie springs, and their rapid descent, consisting as they do of a series of rapids and cascades, their banks fringed with evergreens, makes them not only form one of the picturesque features of the country, but suggests the power, which, when harnessed or converted into electrical energy, will set in motion the millions of wheels of future manufacturing.

The Town of Okotoks is especially favored in this respect, located as it is in the valley of Sheep River, with an immense spring creek of two cubic feet capacity above it, and fringed with hills where a reservoir will shortly be placed, making it possible for the installation of a water-works system capable of sending a stream of water over its highest buildings and abundantly supplying the town with the best of water for fire, domestic and lawn purposes at the smallest possible cost. This, with the efficient electric light and telephone service which it now possesses, will make it one of the best equipped towns in the West.

The highest rainfall for the last ten years in Calgary has been 35 inches, and the lowest 11.16 inches, but the fortunate circumstances with the rainfall in this district is that precipitation of rain is almost unknown except during the months when vegetation is in the growing stage, thereby making possible the happy combination of a moderately dry climate with luxuriance of vegetation.



GRAIN ELEVATOR



SAW MILL



ELECTRIC POWER HOUSE

The following is a Government Report of the rainfall for Calgary District for the past eight years. From 10 to 15 per cent. more precipitation of rain occurs in the Okotoks District than in the Calgary District.

Statement of Mean and Total Monthly and Annual Rainfall at Calgary, Alberta.

YEAR	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEP.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.	TOTAL
1898.....	.00	.90	1.57	.45	2.02	3.77	3.83	2.40	.74	.16	.30	.65	16.79
1899.....	.00	.00	.97	.10	5.46	3.22	2.08	9.40	.99	.44	.26	.17	23.09
1900.....	.00	.02	.30	.47	1.32	3.56	2.00	1.29	4.50	.39	1.60	.00	15.45
1901.....	.40	1.15	.95	.90	1.55	7.04	3.94	.51	3.15	.12	.40	1.20	21.31
1902.....	.40	.60	.62	.60	8.90	9.82	5.06	6.23	1.22	.61	1.00	.60	35.66
1903.....	.09	.50	.88	.29	3.97	2.07	4.09	7.62	1.80	.00	.60	.16	22.07
1904.....	.16	.10	.80	.14	1.56	1.86	1.74	2.75	.38	1.35	.12	.20	11.16
1905.....	1.04	.30	.65	.60	1.68	8.51	.91	.56	.35	.31	1.20	.00	16.11
Mean.....	.26	.45	.84	.44	3.31	4.98	2.96	3.85	1.64	.42	.69	.37	20.21

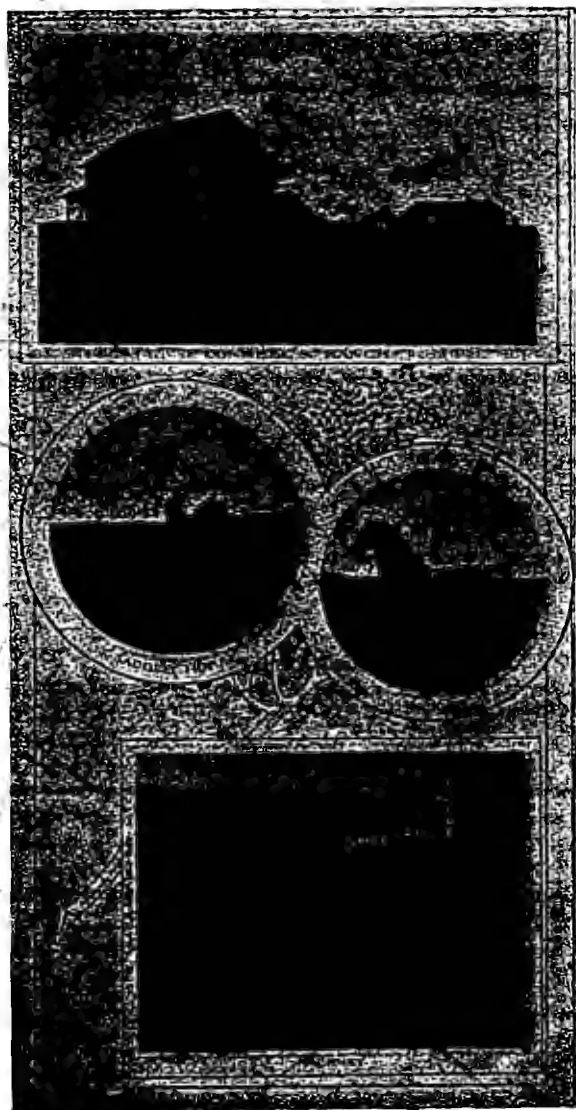


Sport.

The fame of Okotoks as a district where lovers of sport can always find abundance of encouragement, is well known.

Situated as we are on the eastern fringe of the Foot Hills, we have the double advantage of sport that thrives on the level prairie and the sport that abounds in the hills. All the small game that is found on the prairie, such as the prairie chicken, wild duck, goose, and other water fowl, are here in numbers, whilst to the west we have deer, bear, mountain sheep, goats and nearly all the smaller fur-bearing animals. But perhaps the best of all is the fishing. We can claim to have some of the finest trout fishing that could be desired in the small streams that are fed from the mountains. Trout can be found that makes a delicacy that few people who live on the prairie can have.

Then again in outdoor sports and games, in which the Anglo-Saxon delights, and in which the Western citizen is so typical of that he throws his whole enthusiasm into, we again find him to the fore. Football, baseball, cricket, tennis, hockey, all have well organized clubs. Our foot ball and cricket teams are holders of rewards that



many a large city would be proud of. Polo, that game which the West has brought to the front, and which thrives particularly among the English born class, is well represented. The grounds are situated on an ideal flat above the valley, and commanding a splendid view of the town.

The Town Council of Okotoks is already discussing the advisability of providing a recreation ground, so that in the near future we shall not be under the extra expense of providing such grounds when the town limits are extended.

There has just been organized a Rifle Club, controlled by the Militia Department, but entirely civilian in character, and in which every encouragement is given to persons interested in shooting, and which has already enrolled a large number of members.

To anyone who is interested in any of the branches of sport that we have here, and which tend largely to the building up of a great country, we cannot say more than that you will be given a very hearty welcome.

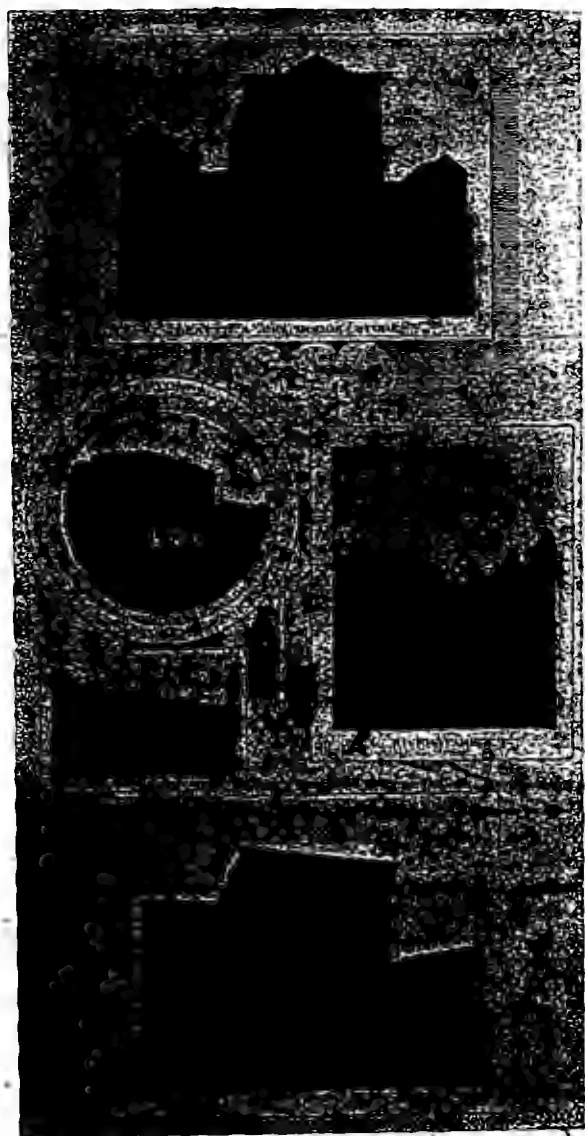


Business Opportunities.

As will be seen on another page, Okotoks is fairly well represented in the general lines of merchandise, but there are quite a number of openings which present good opportunities.

A man of enterprise and energy with a little capital can go into the Creamery or Cheese Making business and make money. It is a well known fact, that Alberta is a magnificent dairying country, and Okotoks is especially favored for this line of business with her great and never failing supply of pure water (also for shipping facilities, situated as she is on the Calgary, Edmonton and Macleod branch of the C.P.R.). The surrounding farmers have been making a considerable quantity of dairy butter, and would gladly support an up-to-date creamery, the output of which would find an unlimited market in the Lumbering and Mining Camps of the adjacent Province of British Columbia.

Flour Mills and Oatmeal Mills are two industries that would be profitable investments. Alberta Red Winter



Wheat is world-wide known for its milling qualities, and this district is one of the best in the Province for growing this class of wheat, as will be noticed by the Government Report published on another page. The unlimited markets of the Orient will absorb all the flour that could be made and keep the mills running day and night the year round, a most important factor in the operation of Flour Mills.

Among numerous other opportunities are Woodenware, Sash and Door Factory, Foundry and Machine Shop, Tannery, Cabinet Maker, Photographer, Sanitarium.

Industries.

Amongst the industries of Okotoks and District, special mention should be made of the Alberta Cement Company's work here. Whoever visits Okotoks should not fail to see this plant. Romantically situated at the convergence of two immense coulees, on the line of the C. & E. Railroad, four miles from town, they have an inexhaustible mine of the finest known quality of shale, easily accessible and capable of supplying cement material for hundreds of years to come. They are therefore well equipped to fulfill the contract which they have in hand, viz: of supplying the company's works at Calgary with the raw material. But aside from this, under the wise and business-like direction of their able manager, Mr. Deller, they have established here the finest brick-making plant in Alberta, and probably one of the finest in Canada. No expense has been spared in the way of the latest improved machinery, labor-saving devices and down-draft kilns, so that now, with an outlay of \$50,000 and a pay-roll of 75 men, this company is now turning out all kinds of brick, from the common variety to the most fancy design for ornamental architecture. Their speciality, however, is red pressed brick, for which purpose they are operating two presses of 20,000 bricks per day capacity, and capable of exerting 45 tons pressure. As a result, therefore, the brick produced from these engines is as smooth as glass, hard as flint, and of a handsome red color, and though as yet only on the market one season, they have taken precedence everywhere.



GRAND CENTRAL HOTEL



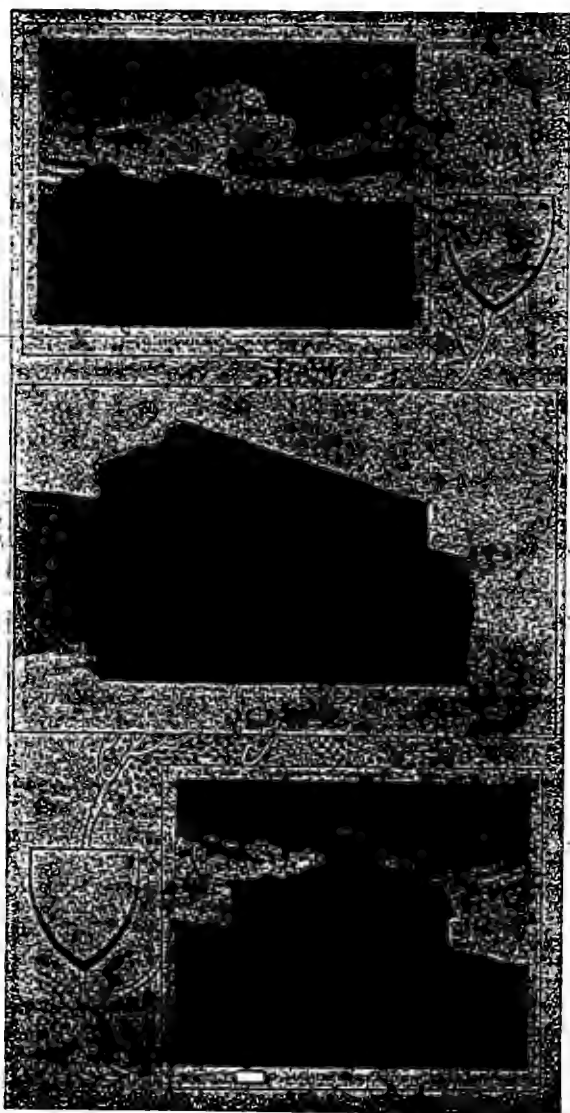
THE ROYAL



C.P. DEPOT



ALBERTA HOTEL



The Company also have a machine for manufacturing common brick, with a capacity of 90,000 bricks per day.

The Company have installed a reservoir of 125 feet elevation, so that they have a complete set of waterworks and fire protection of their own..



Fuel—Coal and Wood.

Coal famines hold no dread to residents of Okotoks and surrounding district.

WHY?

Read the report on minerals on another page of this pamphlet. Note that Alberta possesses coal beds sufficient to supply the whole world for hundreds of years.

In many places signs of our vast wealth in this respect appear on the surface, and it is quite probable that a greater part of our fertile soil shelters beneath it at varying depths coal areas greater than the world has yet known.

We have a large number of active coal mines within a radius of less than a hundred miles.

The Okotoks Coal Mine is situated only sixteen miles west of the town on the south branch of Sheep River, in what is commonly called the Lineham District. The mine also goes by the owner's name, "McPherson's Mine." The coal from this productive mine can scarcely be surpassed for heating properties. The plant is working the entire year. Different grades of coal are also shipped in to their respective dealers from Lethbridge, Taber, Reliance, Blairmore, Bankhead. Prices per ton run from \$5.00 to \$6.50 delivered.

In addition to such immense coal resources to rely on, Okotoks has also within thirty miles to the west large wooded areas, from which, if necessary, much fuel could be procured, besides an abundance of slabwood at \$1.25 a wagon load any time at the mill yard in town.

With coal and wood so near, so cheap, why should we fear a fuel famine?

Education.

The educational advantages of this District are second to none in the Province outside of the larger cities.

The town has a well equipped four-roomed school, with the teachers at present employed taking up the work from the Primary Department to Form VII., or equal to Ontario Second Class Certificate. None of the teachers hold lower than a Second Class Professional Certificate, and the work done by them is exceptionally thorough and the discipline good.

Last year there were passed from the senior room two for third class certificates and three for second class, none trying having failed. This is the only school on the south line taking up Form VII. work.

A number of students attend the town school from the rural districts. Having completed their course in the rural school, it is not necessary that they be sent away from home, as they can here take up all the advanced subjects necessary to fit them for passing Form VII.

During the time of their attendance a number of these pupils ride in from their homes in the morning, returning to their homes at night after school, while others boarding in town during the school week can spend Saturday and Sunday at home, an advantage that cannot be lightly appreciated.

The following extracts from the School Law of the Territories, which has effect in the new Province as well, will explain the ease with which new districts are formed in the unorganized portions of the Province:—

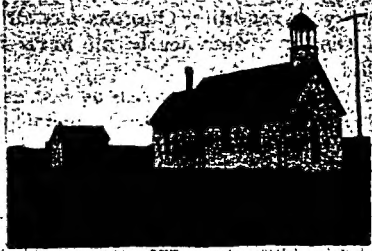
Sec. 12—Any portion of the Territories may be erected into a Public School District, provided that:

(a) It does not exceed five miles in length or breadth, exclusive of road allowances.

(b) It contains four persons actually resident therein who on the erection of the District would be liable to assessment, and twelve children between the ages of five and sixteen years, inclusive;

Provided, however, that in special cases the commissioner may permit the boundaries of any District to exceed five miles in length or breadth, or either;

13. Any three residents in any area fulfilling the requirements of the next preceding section, may be formed or may form themselves into a committee to



ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



DE DE LONG'S HOUSE



DE STOCKTON'S HOUSE



SCHOOL HOUSE

procure its erection into a District, and may petition the commissioner for such erection.

The country surrounding Okotoks has all been formed into School Districts, and nearly all have schools open the full school year.

New Districts are being formed as fast as the requirements of the Act are met, and school privileges are easily within the reach of every settler.

Church advantages, too, are well provided for. The Methodists, Presbyterians, Baptists, Anglican and Roman Catholic bodies all have fine churches, which are well attended. The people have been very liberal in maintaining religious institutions and schools, and the superior character of the residents of this section bears evidence of their broad-mindedness and liberality, and insures to the new-comer surroundings both congenial and elevating.



